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Turner's Powers, Duties Expanded In Reorganization

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President Carter yesterday ordered a reorganization of the nation's foreign intelligence community, significantly expanding the powers and duties of his onetime Naval Academy classmate, CIA Director Stansfield Turner.

The President placed Turner in charge of a new Cabinet-level policy review committee within the National Security Council that will establish the nation's intelligence priorities and oversee the production of analytical intelligence reports.

He also gave Turner sole authority, except during wartime or periods of crisis, over the assignment of intelligence tasks among government agencies and full authority over the budgets of intelligence-gathering agencies.

But while Turner was granted broad overall authority to direct the nation's foreign intelligence-gathering efforts, day-to-day operational control of intelligence agencies such as the Defense Department's National Security Agency and National Reconnaissance Office was not changed.

The reorganization, which contained no major surprises, was the result of a review of the intelligence commu-

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nity ordered early in the administration. It also represented the culmination of an internal struggle for control of the community between Turner and Defense Secretary Harold Brown.

While administration officials have declined to characterize Turner's expanded role under the reorganization as that of "intelligence czar," he clearly emerged in a much stronger position than Brown.

Pentagon spokesman Thomas B. Ross called the plan "a reasonable compromise," and said Brown's main concern was over the day-to-day control of the Pentagon intelligence agencies, which he will retain.

"Although his [Turner's] powers have increased, he got less than he asked for," Ross said. "We gave up something, but we think it's a reasonable compromise."

The White House said the purpose of the changes Carter ordered are to "provide for strong direction by the President and the National Security Council and to centralize the most critical national intelligence management functions under the director of central intelligence—tasking resources and national analytic production."

White House press secretary Jody Powell said that despite Turner's expanded role, the President will still have available to him intelligence reports from different, and at times

competing, intelligence-gathering agencies. Carter has said he wants to maintain a diversity of sources for foreign intelligence-gathering.

The new policy review committee in the NSC will be headed by Turner and will include Brown, Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal and National Security Affairs Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

In addition, the reorganization created a new National Intelligence Tasking Center, which will have a staff of civilian and military officials and will assign intelligence-gathering missions to various agencies. It will normally be headed by Turner, but in times of war or crisis Brown could be designated to take over direction of the center.

Previously, assignment of intelligence tasks and budget control over the agencies was divided within a committee system. Under the reorganization, Turner will have control of these functions.

Powell said the plan will provide for "a more coordinated, and therefore more effective, intelligence-gathering operation, while avoiding an overly centralized intelligence community that might be too powerful or might adversely affect the [intelligence] product."